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TIME 14 FEBRUARY 1983

The Presidency/Hugh Sidey

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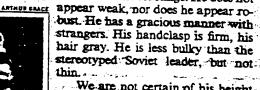
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Getting to Know Andropov

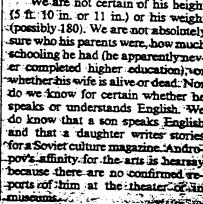
arely a day goes by now that there is not a reference to Yuri Andropov in the President's morning intelligence report. Fragments from spies, diplomats, generals and businessmen are eagerly collected and fitted into the giant mosaic that American experts are assembling. As Ronald Reagan prepares to do psychological battle over the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe, no task is more important than understanding the mind of this protagonist.

The files in the veiled recesses of the Kremlin bulge with material on Reagan. The Soviets know everything from the size of his biceps to the way he conducts himself at closed-door meetings. By contrast, U.S. intelligence analysts do not even know whether Andropov drinks vodka. The Soviet leader at this point is little more than a neat, dark blue suit filled with cold air. But we have made a start in putting some flesh and blood under the suit.

He has a singular stoop that forces his chin down, perhaps the result of an injury. Part of his right eyebrow is missing. His woice is middle range. He does not



We are not certain of his height-(5 ft. 10 in. or 11 in.) or his weight (possibly 180). We are not absolutely: sure who his parents were, how much and that a daughter writes stories because there are no confirmed reports of him at the theater of in



schooling he had (he apparently never completed higher education), for whether his wife is alive or dead. Nor do we know for certain whether her speaks or understands English Wedo know that a son speaks English: for a Soviet culture magazine. Andro pov's affinity for the arts is hearsay. The way he walks and carries

himself indicates he is not physically agile. Disappearances from public life in the past suggest some bad health, proba bly cardiovascular mouble. Compared with sound Brezhnev in his final years, Andropov seems alert and durable But those few Americans who have seen him face to face (Vice President Bush and Secretary of State Shultz are two of only a handful) report that he seems more singuie than most men his age. Shultz noted that Andropov acted like is man who had been in thange. Still, analysts are not yet convinced he has full control in the K remain.

Several stories suggest to the enjoy is that Andropov has an ability to put people.

ple at ease, even those who might lear him Still there is no hint of the humanity that bubbled from Brezhnev when he was strinking vodka or hunting wild boar. Andropov has no recording a sportsman. He seems sotally urban in complete contrast to the sinal flavor of Khinsheiter and Brezhnev. It is assumed but not proved, that Andropov spent his demander political years in Karelia, on the Finnish border, What he did throng World War Has also stretchy Presumably Andropov was involved in the hitter fighting at Leningrad, but there is no public record of it.

Andropovis not a tactile person who needs to louch others, as Brezhnev.occ sionally did. The photograph of Brezhnev and Jimmy Carter lessing in Vienna's shadowy Holburg Palace is a classic, Andropovis not likely to be so cuddly. Evidence suggests no pronounced indulgences (like Brezhnev's cars and guns), but instead, a lean life-style and an abhorrence of official corruption.

There is no charisma about Andropov. So far he is using television less than his two immediate predecessors. The curiosity of the Soviet people and the world will or bring out more information about Andropov, But be careful, American officialswarn. The real past is so dim that the official mosaic may be myth. It is no wonder that Ronald Reagan looked at the secret intelligence assessments and told his aides that he would wait to see what Andropov did before he judged the man.